

presently on the wall—the wings of pioneers and heros—taking their place of honor among the great birdmen of history.

Lt. General William Pitts gave over 36 years to his country in the United States Air Force commanding a broad array of units from a bombardment squadron to the sixth Allied Tactical Air Force in NATO at Izmir, Turkey. In World War II he flew B-29 aircraft striking at the Japanese Empire from Pacific bases on 25 missions. He completed his service at March Air Force Base (now March Air Reserve Base) in 1975 as the Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force, Strategic Air Command. The Fifteenth Air Force was responsible for the Strategic Air Command operations in the Western United States and Alaska with a mixed force of reconnaissance, bomber aircraft and missiles that supported the national strategic deterrence mission.

Lt. General William Pitts has received numerous decorations and awards during his service that include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Purple Heart and others.

Rear Admiral Allen E. Hill made a career in the United States Navy serving as a carrier aviator, where he participated in five combat cruises and flew over 400 combat missions. In fact, he was twice deployed to Korea flying F-9/F-2 Panthers and, during his first combat cruise, he and three other pilots participated in the first all jet and highest aerial engagement in the history of air warfare. He retired only after accomplishing his objective of institutionalizing the tactical training of Naval officers responsible for Battle Group operations, through his opportunity to establish in Washington, DC, an office of Director of Tactical Readiness. In that position he was the first Admiral to be completely responsible for Naval Warfare Doctrine, the tactical training of Fleet Commanders and Battle Group Commanders, and the Assessment of Warfare Readiness.

Rear Admiral Allen E. Hill has been awarded over fifty personal combat decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Four Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Purple Heart, three Legion of Merit awards, the Korean War Presidential Commendation, two Bronze Stars with "V" clasps for valor in combat and many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I bring the story of these two men to my colleagues. The Mission Inn Fliers' Wall recognizes the role aviation has had in America's fight for freedom and democracy. To Lt. General William Pitts and Rear Admiral Allen Hill I would like to say "God Bless You" and "God Bless America"—without them, and all of our service men and women, America would not be the strong and healthy democracy it is today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. HOOPER, D.D.S. FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO COLUMBUS, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I today pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Ohio. Dr. William D. Hooper, a general dentist, is celebrating more than twenty-five years of distinguished service to his community in Columbus, OH.

Dr. Hooper, originally a Tennessee native, attended Lambuth College prior to entering the University of Tennessee, College of Dentistry. After graduation, he served the North Carolina Department of Human Resources as a practicing dentist. In 1975, he moved to the Columbus area where he has resided ever since.

Setting up his practice more than 25 years ago in Upper Arlington, Dr. Hooper and his staff have embodied the practice's motto, "Excellence by Choice." Dr. Hooper has constantly sought to hone his skills at the prestigious L.D. Pankey Institute for Dental Education. Throughout his career, Dr. Hooper has trained under some of the most recognized names in dentistry, such as Dr. Frank Spear of Seattle, WA, Dr. Peter Dawson of St. Petersburg, FL, and Dr. Mark Piper also of St. Petersburg, FL. He has mastered many techniques in cosmetic dentistry as well as focused on determining the many causes of Temporal Mandibular Joint Dysfunction and how to treat the problems associated with it.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hooper's dedication and service have earned him the highest regard for his character and abilities as a dentist. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 107th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. William D. Hooper. His professionalism and service to his community are an example for all citizens of Ohio and across the country. We thank him, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

VOTING DISENFRANCHISEMENT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today this body meets in a joint session to certify the Electoral College votes for the 43rd President of our nation.

As an African American, a member of a "so called" minority and a person of Caribbean descent, while I accept the decision of the Supreme Court and will also accept the results of this process today, I do so with a strong resolve born out of the hurt and disappointment in the events of the past two months.

The disenfranchisement of many citizens of our country whose legally cast votes were not counted has left a dark cloud over the country—a cloud which will not easily clear with the inauguration and the administering of the oath

of office. We cannot turn back the hands of time, however, nor change what is past. But we can determine to shape and direct our future.

And so I pledge to work with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, other members of Congress and national leaders to put in place whatever policies and introduce and support whatever legislation which will ensure that a travesty such as this never happens again. We must commit ourselves to restoring the integrity of the election process in this country.

As we return to work later this month, we must include among our first priority items addressing the many unmet needs in the Territories, in other districts of color, in our rural areas and poor communities.

The Congressional Black Caucus have in the past been referred to as the "conscience of the Congress" and the "Fairness Cops of the Nation." As such, we will take the lead on these issues on behalf of those we proudly represent. It is incumbent on all of us though—the president-elect and his Cabinet, as well as the leadership in Congress—to be our full partners in this effort to lift up all Americans and make sure that no one is left behind.

We have the wherewithal to do it, now as never before. A time of plenty like this is not promised again. And so, if not now, when!! And if not us, who!!

Let us seize this time to make America the great country it is destined to be.

HONORING HARRY E. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 6, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I honor today my fellow Texan Harry E. Johnson, Sr. for his upcoming inauguration as the 31st General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in Houston, Texas, January 12–14, 2001.

It is fitting that as the world focuses on the election of the first American President for the 21st Century, Alpha members direct their time and attention to welcoming General President-Elect Johnson as a rising community leader. Throughout his career—and, as a loving husband to Karen and father to their children Jennifer, Harry Jr., and Nicholas—Harry Johnson has exemplified and advanced the Alpha Phi Alpha motto . . . "manly deeds, scholarship and love for all mankind."

General President-Elect Johnson, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, was elected to the position of General President after serving as the fraternity's Legal Counsel, Johnson practices law in Houston and serves as adjunct professor of Law at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Honoring the legacy of past presidents, Johnson plans to fulfill many of the commitments started by his predecessors, including building a national memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Alpha Phi Alpha was given the sole authority by the United States Congress to design and build a memorial to Dr. King. The winning design was